IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shigeru MURAMATSU Art Unit: Application No.: filed concurrently Examiner:

Filing Date: March 31, 2004

Title : CONTROL APPARATUS WITH OPERATOR MEMBER

CONTROLLABLE BY REACTIVE FORCE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to his duty of good faith and candor as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56(a), applicant requests that the references cited on attached form PTO-1449 (a copy of which is enclosed) be considered by the Examiner in connection with the search of the prior art required by 37 CFR 1.104.

Please note that Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-177387 is discussed on page 1 of the specification. Please also note that the enclosed U.S. Patent No. 5,952,806 is the English language counterpart patent of Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-177387. An English language abstract of this Japanese reference is also enclosed.

This Statement is being filed under 37 CFR 1.97(b) prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at the telephone number listed below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 31, 2004

Randolph A. Smit Reg. No. 32,548

SMITH PATENT OFFICE

1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Suite 200

Washington, DC 20006-3433 Telephone: 202/530-5900 Facsimile: 202/530-5902

Muramatsu033104

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMA	TION I	DISC	LOSURE	Application Number	Filed concurrently
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Filing Date	March 31, 2004
				Applicants	Shigeru MURAMATSU
(use as many sheets as necessary)				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	0109/003001

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Cite No. 1 **EXAMINER** DOCUMENT Pages, Columns, Lines, INITIAL* NUMBER Kind Code² NAME DATE Where Relevant Passages or Relevant (if known) MM-YYYY Figures Appear 5,952,806 **MURAMATSU** 09/1999 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Foreign Patent Document **EXAMINER** Cite Kind Code5 DATE Pages, Columns, Lines, INITIAL* Office³ Number⁴ (if known) NAME MM-YYYY Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear JP 10-177387 **MURAMATSU** Α 06/1998 Abstract

XAMINER DATE CONSIDERED

^{*}Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.